NO. 53

PEP COMICS

JUNE 10¢

Archie

Starring ARCHIE ANDREWS!

AN MLJ MAGAZINE

SHIELD G-MAN CLUB

BULLETIN NO. 31

HIYA, GANG:

The meeting is now called to order. The first business for the day is getting you members together. Especially the new ones. Dusty and I just had a thought which we'll pass on to you. It's this. How about you older members dropping a line to the new ones that appear on this page, sort of welcoming them into the club. We want them to feel like they're part of one great big happy family, don't we? And you'd be surprised how many friends you make that way. Start right now. Write to the new members who are listed below the bulletin. and kind of get to know each other. . . . Memo to Joe Yglesias: Here's how to run a Shield G-Man Club. Round up all the Shield G-Man Members in your neighborhood, and hold a meeting once a week or so. Elect a chief G-Man, *and an assistant chief. They'll appoint special investigators, and that's all there is to it. But be* sure and send us a report of your activities at least once a month. That way we'll be able to keep tabs on you and make suggestions from time to time. . . . Memo to David Dreispul: Your idea of having our members draw their own villains, naming them and sending them in to us is a good one. We'll give a prize for the best villains submitted that way. So long, gang and keep punching.

Here are the names of some of our latest members:

JAMES FARRO, JR.
712 Ocean Ave.
Jersey City, N. J.

DANIEL CORDER
1529 Union Ave.
Baltimore 11, Md.

TERESA BARCZAK
R.F.D. No. 2
Warwick, N. Y.

JOHN DUFFY
5225 Duncan St.
Pittsburgh 1, Pa.

RICHARD PENZO
433 Nepperhan Ave.
Yonkers, N. Y.

STANLEY FURUTA
1775 West 35th Ave.
Denver 11, Colo.

ALFRED GEHN
250 West 94th St.
N. Y. C. 25, N. Y.

LEONARD DUMAJ
2156 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

DUANE GRADY
3811 N. Green Bay Ave.
Milwaukee 6, Wisc.

ROBERT N. STROUSE
Rt. 1, Box 21
Sterling, Conn.

Sincerely
Joe Higgins

USE THIS ENTIRE COUPON!!

JUST PRINT PLAINLY ON THIS COUPON, YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AGE AND SEND IT TO ME WITH 10c TO COVER COST OF MAILING AND HANDLING.

Joe Higgins
Room 603
241 Church St.
New York City

Dear Joe:
Please enroll me as a member of the **SHIELD G-MAN CLUB.** I am enclosing this coupon together with Ten Cents to cover the costs of handling and mailing my Badge and Identification Card.

NAME .....

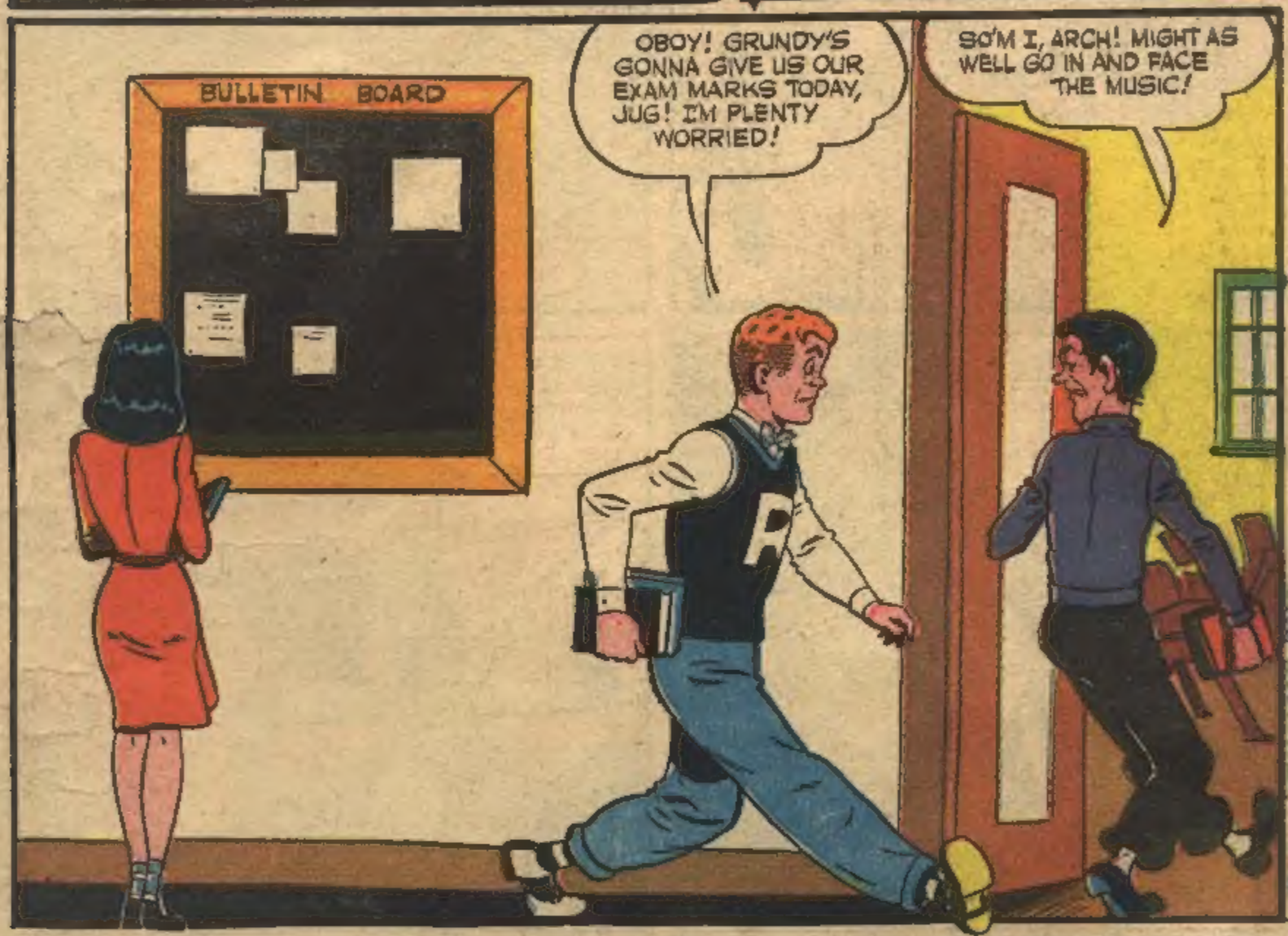
ADDRESS ..... AGE .....

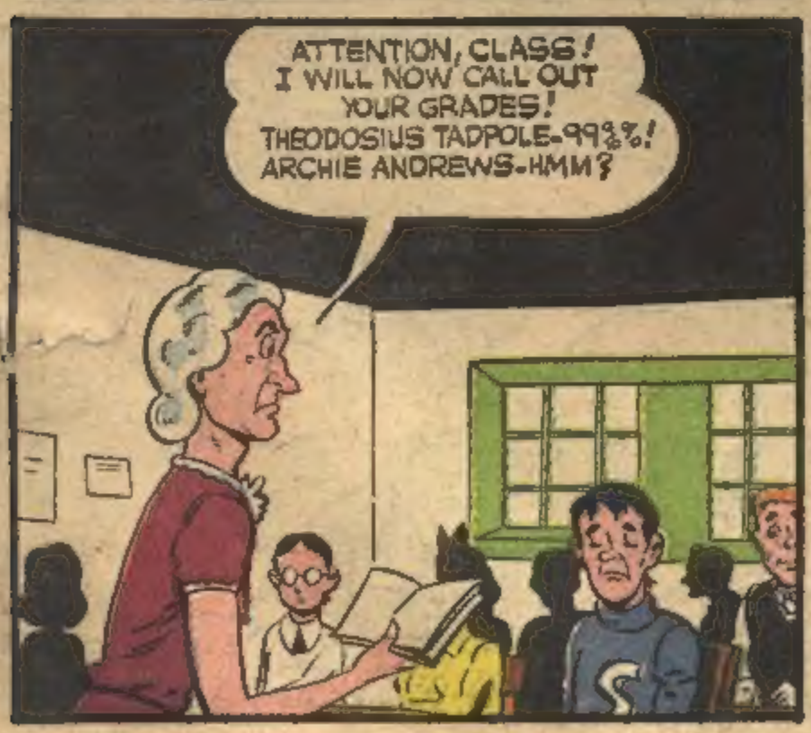
EXACT COPY OF BADGE
IN THREE COLORS
RED—WHITE—BLUE

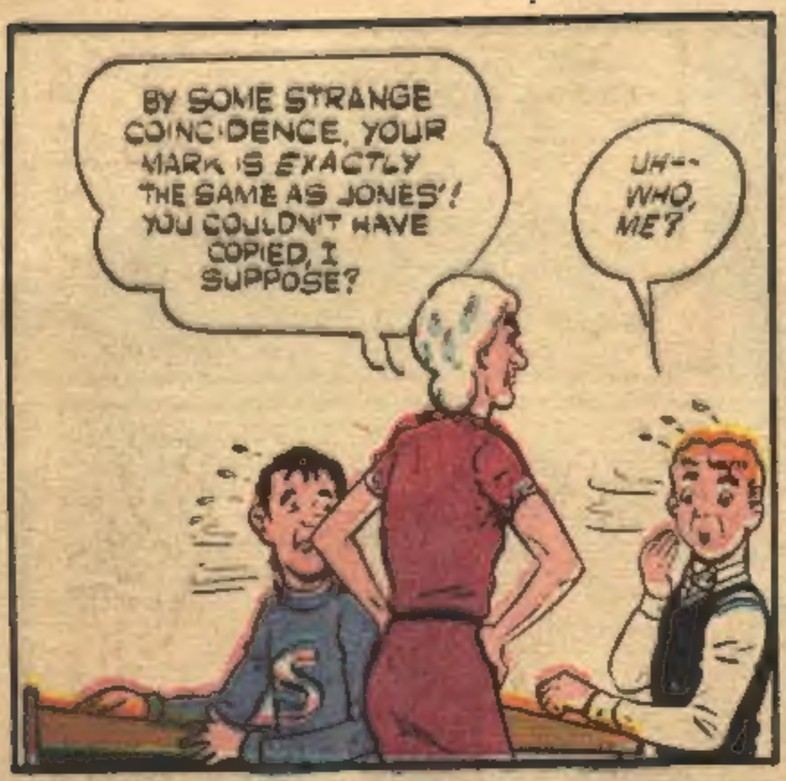
CUT ON THIS LINE

JUNE, 1945. Volume 1, Number 53. PEP COMICS is published quarterly, March, June, September and December, by M. L. J. Magazines, 420 DeSoto Avenue, St. Louis, 7, Mo. Editorial offices: 241 Church Street, New York, 13, N. Y. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo. Registered U. S. Patent Office. Copyright, 1945, by M. L. J. Magazines. Yearly subscription, 40c in U. S. A.; single copies 10c. No actual person is named or delineated in this fiction magazine. Printed in the U. S. A. For advertising rates write DOUBLE ACTION COMIC GROUP, 241 Church Street, New York, 13, N. Y.

Archie WRINGS the BELLE!

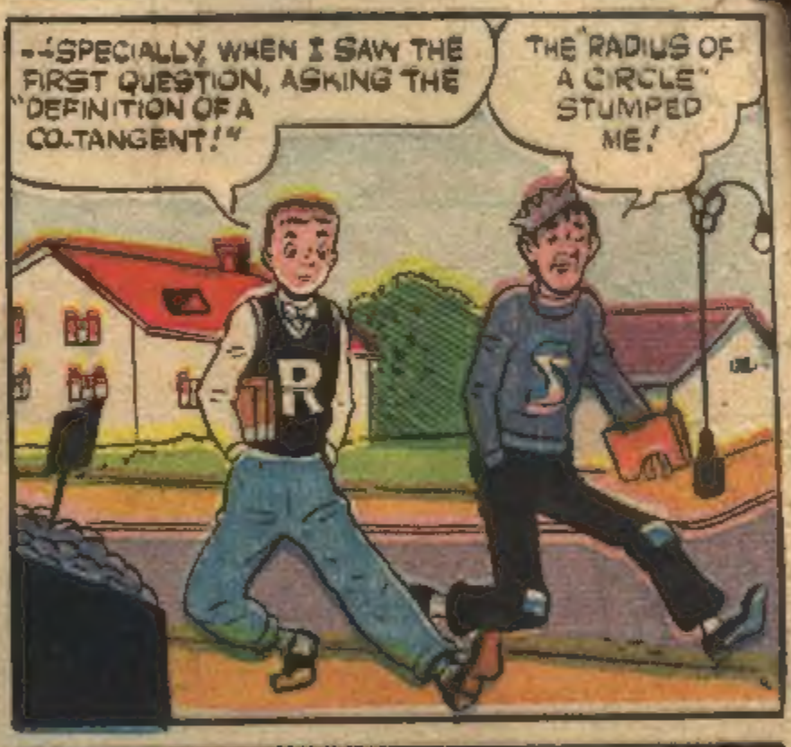

BULLETIN BOARD
OBOY! GRUNDY'S GONNA GIVE US OUR EXAM MARKS TODAY, JUG! I'M PLENTY WORRIED!
SO'M I, ARCH! MIGHT AS WELL GO IN AND FACE THE MUSIC!




BY SOME STRANGE COINCIDENCE, YOUR MARK IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS JONES'! YOU COULDN'T HAVE COPIED, I SUPPOSE?
UH-- WHO, ME?

WHY--UH--NO, MISS GRUNDY-- I--AH--WOULDN'T DREAM--OF DOING SUCH A THING--AND BESIDES, JUGHEAD WRITES TOO SMALL!

83.3%--BOY, THAT'S A RELIEF! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D PASS-!


--'SPECIALLY WHEN I SAVV THE FIRST QUESTION, ASKING THE "DEFINITION OF A CO-TANGENT!"
THE 'RADIUS OF A CIRCLE" STUMPED ME!

OWOO-DID I FLUNK OUT! HOW ABOUT YOU, WILLIE?
IF MY MARKS WERE ANY LOWER, I'D HAVE TO GET DOWN ON MY HANDS AND KNEES TO SEE 'EM!

IM CELEBRATIN, POP! ALL CHOCOLATE-- STRAIGHT!
I'LL TAKE ANOTHER!
R-R-RING!
JUST A MINUTE, BOYS, TH' 'PHONE!

HELLO! --OH, YES, HE'S HERE!
JUGHEAD--IT'S YOUR MOTHER!
?
WHASSAT, MOM? COUSIN MARY LEE IS VISITING WITH US? YOU MEAN THE ONE FROM THE SOUTH-?
HEY, GANG! GET A LOAD OF THIS-A FEMME'S COMIN' TO TOWN-A REAL SOUTHERN BEAUTY!!!
SURE-MOM-SURE!
R
WHAT? TODAY-ON THE FOUR-FIFTEEN? OH, YOU WANT ME TO MEET HER AT THE STATION--?
S
YOU BET WE WILL, MRS. JONES!
S

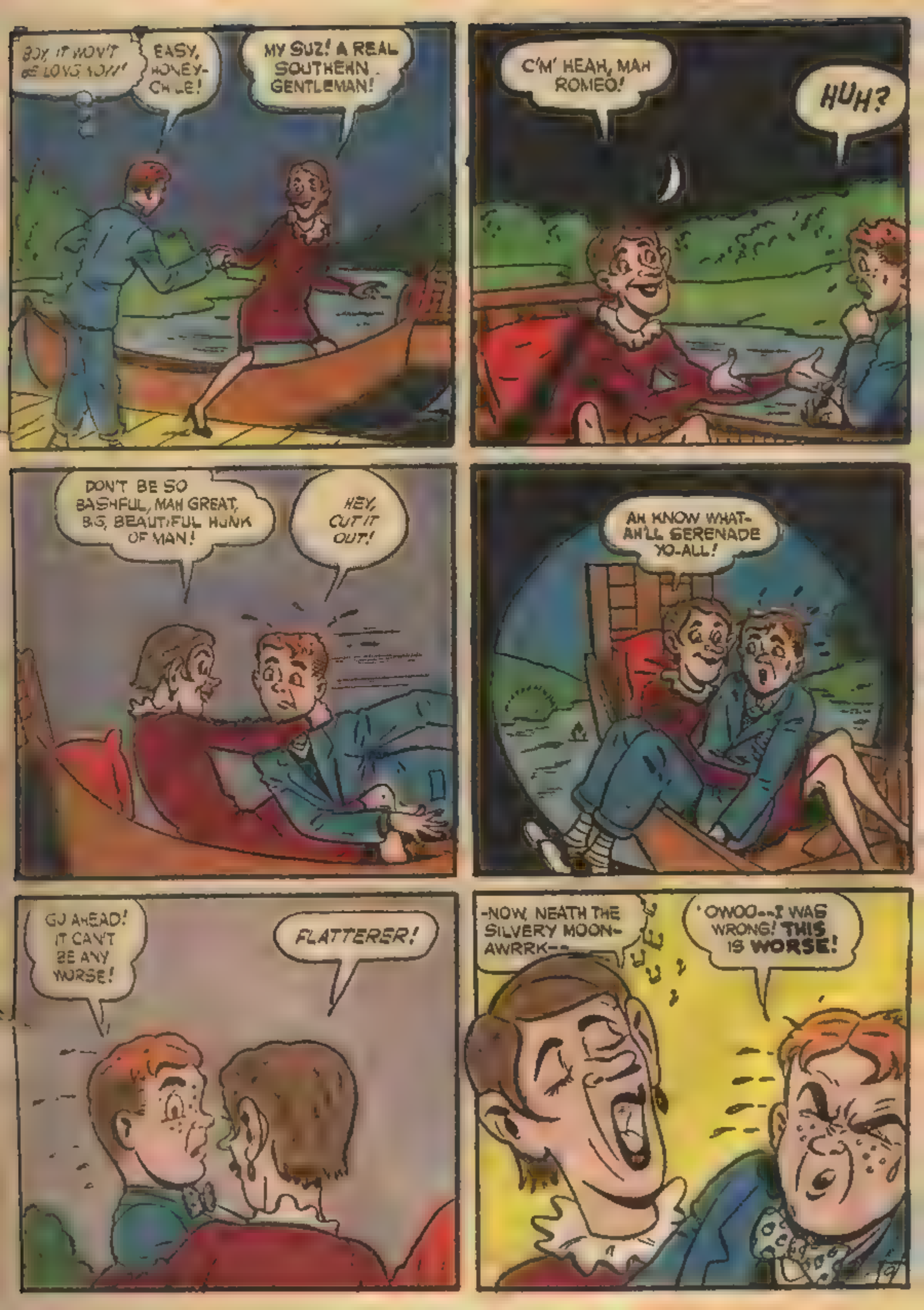
HOLDIN' OUT ON US, HEY JUG? WHAT'S MARY LEE LIKE, JUG?
WELL, MOM ONCE SAID- SHE NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE HER!
HOW ABOUT GETTIN' ME A DATE, JUG?
PSST--REMEMBER THOSE ICE SKATES OF MINE YOU ALWAYS LIKED, JUG, OL' PAL?
AW, THOSE GUYS 'RE PIKERS! HOW ABOUT- BZZ-BZZ!
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU WOLVES! LET'S PICK FOR THIS!
HIGH NUMBER GETS FIRST DATE!!
YIPEE- I GOT IT!
SWEET MARY LEE-- FROM SUNNY UMP-TA-DEE! OH, SHE'S TH'GAL FOR ME---

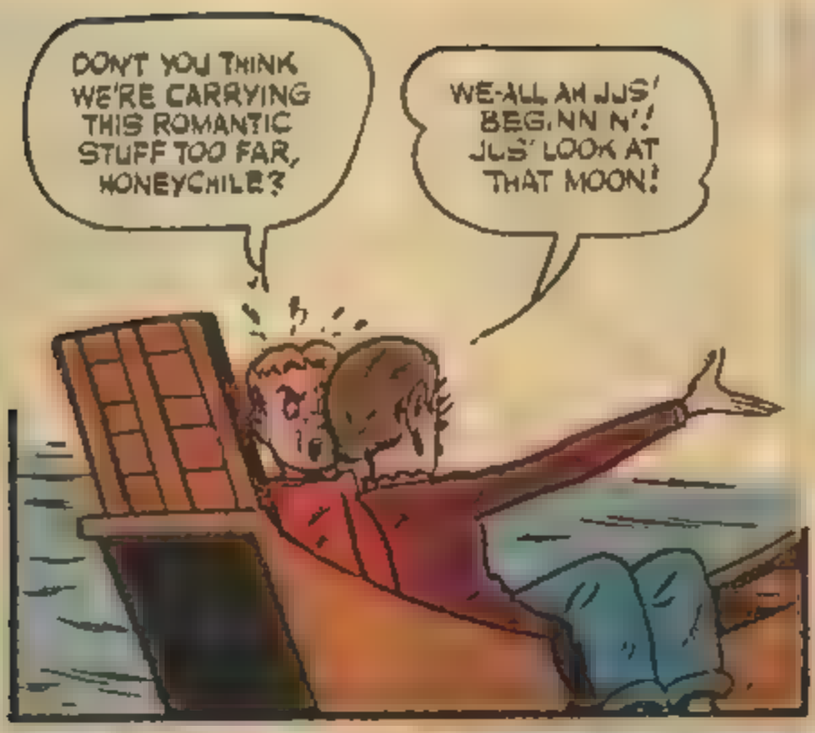
LOOK, GANG, THAT MUST BE HER!
WOW! A REAL GEORGIA PEACH!
C'MON, FELLOWS! LET'S SHOW HER SOME REAL NORTHERN HOSPITALITY!
BUT- FELLAS--
YOO-HOO! COUSIN JUGHEAD- HERE I AM!
IT CAN'T BE--
IT SHOULDN'T BE--
IT IS!
ER, UH-SO LONG, ARCH! SHE'S YOUR DATE!

WELL, UH-SO LONG, JUG!
NO YOU WON'T!
RIVERDALE
MISS GRUNDY MIGHT WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT 83.3%- IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN!
GULP-I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
MEET ARCHIE, MARY LEE-HE'S "DYING" TO TAKE YOU OUT!
AH DECLAIAH AH WON'T LET YO'ALL FOHGET OUAH DATE!
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF!
LET'S GO, COUSIN!
BYE, BYE, HONEY-CHILE!
LOOK, BEEZY, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO-?
NOT A CHANCE! -I ALREADY SAW HER, ARCH!
THREE SODAS, CORNY-AND I'LL THROW IN MY JEW'S HARP!
NOPE! BUT I'LL LEND YOU MY LEASH!
BOY! I'VE TRIED EVERYBODY-LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TAKE HER TO THE PIER DANCE!
6

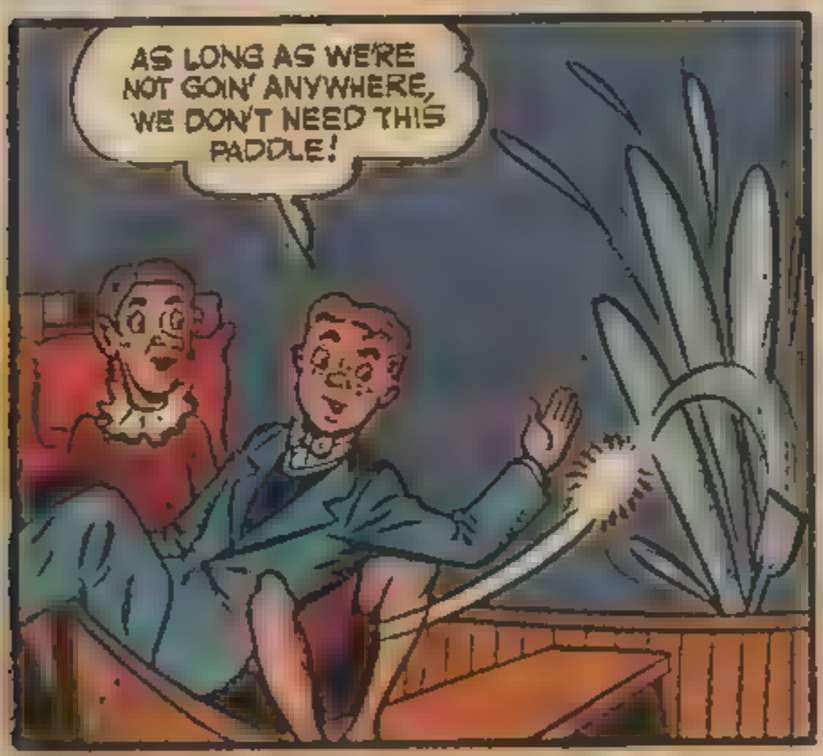
COMES THE NIGHT OF THE PIER DANCE, AND ALL RIVERDALE'S YOUTH IS HAPPY AND GAY-THAT IS ALL EXCEPT ONE!
GUESS WHO!
JOE'S ON THE PIER
DANCE TO-DAY
WE-ALL MUST MAKE A HAND-SOME COUPLE, HONEYCHILE!
EVERYBODY IS STARIN' AT US!
ER-I-UH-SUPPOSE YOU'D LIKE TO DANCE, MARY LEE!
AH'D LOVE TO!
MUSIC DOES THINGS TO ME!
I HOPE IT DOESN'T DO THE SAME THINGS TO ME!
HONEYCHILE, WOULDN'T YOU RATHER HAVE A SODA OR SOMETHING?

SHO 'NUFF! LET'S GUZZLE- AH'M THIRSTY!
BOY-WOTTA PUSS!
WHAT'LL IT BE?
AH'M ON A DIET-- SO AH'LL JUST HAVE ONE PLATE OF ICE CREAM---AT A TIME!
THAT WAS JUST DANDY- AH'LL HAVE ANOTHAH!
AH'M TIAHED OF ICE CREAM- AH THINK AH'LL SWITCH TO SODAS, NOW!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING CHEAPER THAN THIS!
OH, OH, THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA ON HOW TO SHAKE THAT LONG DRINK OF WATER!
CANOE RIDE 25¢
ER--HONEYCHILE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR A CANOE RIDE?
HOW ROMANTIC!


BOY, IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!
EASY, HONEY-CHILE!
MY SUZ! A REAL SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN!
C'M' HEAH, MAH ROMEO!
HUH?
DON'T BE SO BASHFUL, MAH GREAT, BIG, BEAUTIFUL HUNK OF MAN!
HEY, CUT IT OUT!
AH KNOW WHAT-AH'LL SERENADE YO-ALL!
GO AHEAD! IT CAN'T BE ANY WORSE!
FLATTERER!
-NOW, NEATH THE SILVERY MOON-AWRRK--
'OWOO--I WAS WRONG! THIS IS WORSE!

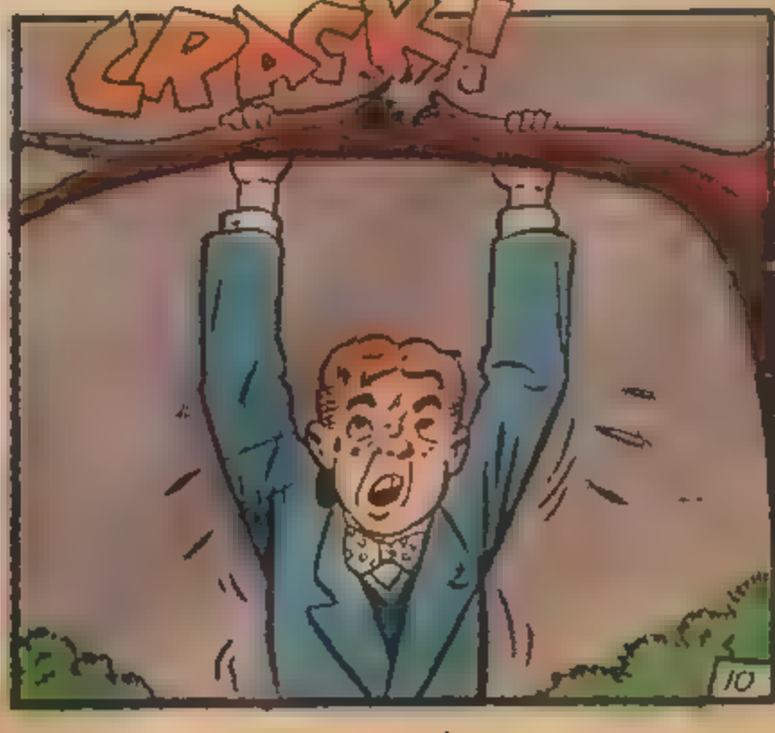

DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE CARRYING THIS ROMANTIC STUFF TOO FAR, HONEYCHILE?
WE-ALL AH JUS' BEGINN N'! JUS' LOOK AT THAT MOON!

HEAH BALMY ZEPHAHS BLOW!
AH-AT LAST, THE TREE--


AS LONG AS WE'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE, WE DON'T NEED THIS PADDLE!

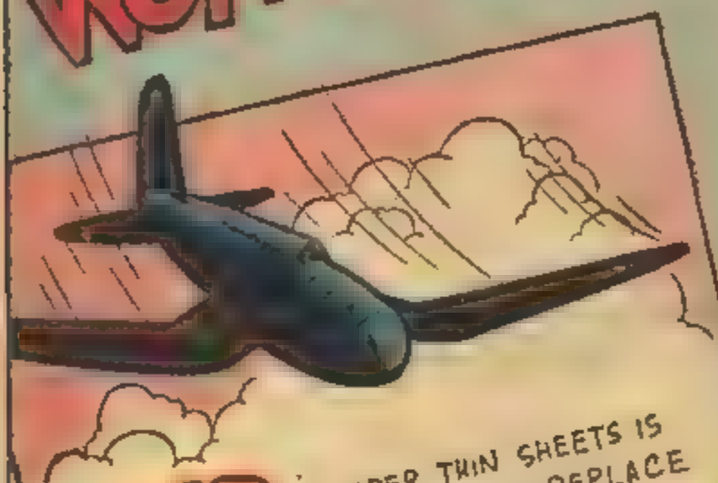
WHY, AH DO B'LIEVE YO-ALL AH GOIN' TUH OVAHWHELM ME!

NOPE-I'M GOING TO LEAVE YOU-ALL! SO LONG, HONEYCHILE!


CRACK!

SNAP
AH DO DECLAIAH, AW'M BEGINNIN' TO THINK YO-ALL DON' LIKE MAH COMPANY!
NEXT DAY--
HELLO ARCH! HOW'RE YOU FEELIN'? COUSIN MARY LEE TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR ACCIDENT LAST NIGHT!
SHE FEELS TERRIBLE! SHE'S SUPPOSED TO LEAVE TODAY, Y'KNOW!
SHE IS? THAT'S GOOD!
OH, BUT I TALKED HER OUT OF IT! I TOLD HER SHE OUGHT TO STICK AROUND AND KIND OF NURSE YOU BACK TO HEALTH!
UH-I GUESS YOU CAN LEAVE AFTER ALL, COUSIN! ARCH'S HEALTHIER THAN I THOUGHT!
THE END-

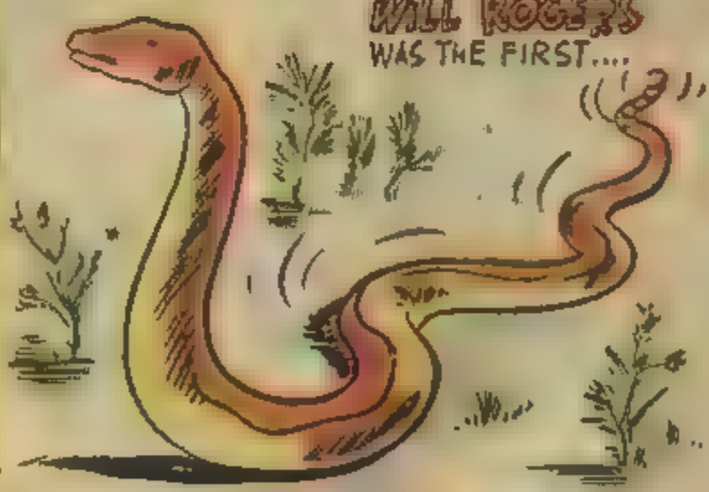
WORLD WONDERS



WOOD IN PAPER THIN SHEETS IS BEING USED TO REPLACE ALUMINUM WHENEVER POSSIBLE IN AIRPLANES.

Lonliest spot on earth IS THE NAME FOR **DEVILS TOWER**, 865 FOOT COLUMN OF SOLID ROCK IN WYOMING... OF THE FEW TO CLIMB IT **WILL ROGERS** WAS THE FIRST....

ALTHOUGH JUNGLE ROADS ARE SOMETIMES WIDE ENOUGH, IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, FOR 40 MEN TO WALK ABREAST THE NATIVES ALWAYS WALK ***IN SINGLE FILE!***



RATTLESNAKES

LIKE TO BE LEFT ALONE TO GO THEIR OWN WAY AND WILL USUALLY RUN AWAY UPON THE APPROACH OF PEOPLE.....

—Goss

PEP CONTEST PAGE

HERE'S A CONTEST IN WHICH **EVERYBODY WINS!** *ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SEND IN A LETTER OR POSTCARD TELLING US YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER IN* **PEP COMICS.** **THE TEN BEST LETTERS** *WILL RECEIVE A* **YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION OF PEP COMICS FREE.** *ALL OTHERS WILL RECEIVE A WAR STAMP WHEN THEIR NAMES APPEAR ON THIS PAGE. SO SEND IN YOUR LETTERS, AND WATCH THIS PAGE FOR YOUR NAME. ADDRESS ALL LETTERS TO* **PEP COMICS, 241 CHURCH ST., NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.**

HERE ARE THE LUCKY TEN WHO WIN A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION OF PEP COMICS!

WILMA HOFFMAN
LYKENS, PA.

EMIL D. AQUILA
97-13-99 AVE.
OZONE PARK, N.Y.

BETTY POWELL
2620 MEMORIAL
LEESBURG, VA.

DOROTHY PATTON
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

SIDNEY SINGER
TORONTO, ONT.

JERRY BAKER
18 ELIZABETH ST.
HAGERSTOWN, MD.

BARBARA HEWITT
12 EASTMAN ST.
DORCHESTER, MASS.

THELMA WOLLMAN
BOX 487
FREEMAN, S.D.

RHETA RAPPIN
229 UNION ST.
ELIZABETH, N.J.

THERESA CASPER
3248 E. WEBB ST.
PHILA. 34 PA.

AND HERE ARE THE WINNERS OF WAR STAMPS

LOIS PFARR
COTTONWOOD, MINN.

RUSSELL BARBERA
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

J'NETTE WILLIAMS
BLOSSBERG, PA.

BILLY RINEAR
CINCINNATI, OHIO

WALTER SCIBA
HOUSTON, TEX.

JOHN BROWN
HEBER SPR'S ARK.

EILEEN BURNS
PHILA. PA.

NORMA KINDT
PORTLAND, ORE.

CL'RE WHITEHOUSE
HARTFORD, CONN.

LUPE YBARRA
LAMAR, COL.

FRANCES PULLIN
PHILA. PA.

ART ROBINSON
DANBURY, CONN.

JANET BAILEY
LEESBURG, OHIO.

RAY MULLER
WILMINGTON, DEL.

RUBY CLOPTON
JOPLIN, MO.

DELL UPTON
NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

THE ORIGINAL
SHIELD
AND
DUSTY
the BOY DETECTIVE
STRONGO, THE STRONG MAN
HE'S THE MARVEL OF THE WORLD, LADEEZ AN' GENTS! THE MIRACLE OF THE CENTURY.. WITH MUSCLES OF PURE STEEL, AND THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN. SEE HIM MATCHING HIS MUSCLES WITH TWO -NOT ONE- BUT TWO WILD STALLIONS. HE'LL THRILL YOU AND CHILL YOU. STEP UP AND SEE THIS BREATH-TAKING, SPECTACULAR, SPINE-CHILLING EXHIBITION

HAVING PERFORMED HIS FEATS OF STRENGTH STRONGO BOWS TO A CHEERING AUDIENCE
AN' NOW, LADEEZ AN' GENTULMEN - THE SURPRISE ACT OF THE EVENING!
AND HOW IT'S GONNA BE A SURPRISE!
I GIVE YOU THAT MAN WITHOUT NERVES - THE GREAT DARO! DAREDEVIL OF THE MOTORCYCLE!
WITH A ROAR OF HIS MOTOR, DARO BEGINS HIS STUNT RIDE - AS THE MACHINE GATHERS MOMENTUM...
..IT RISES HIGHER AND HIGHER UP THE WALL OF THE BOWL-LIKE CRATER.
WHEW! QUITE AN ACT, HUH, JOE?
AMAZING, DUSTY! I'D HATE TO BE IN THAT GUY'S SHOES IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO THAT CYCLE!
CIRCUS
2

THOSE WORDS UTTERED BY JOE HIGGINS, F.B.I. MAN, MAY PROVE TO BE PROPHETIC - GRIMLY PROPHETIC. FOR EVEN AS THE MOTORCYCLE ROARS TOWARD THE HEIGHT OF ITS SPEED...
AAIEEEEEE
HOLY MACKEREL! WHAT A SPILL!
WOW! YOU SURE CALLED THE TURN ON THAT ONE, JOE!
DARO WON'T NEED A DOCTOR, BOSS - HE'S DEAD!
GEE, IT'S TOUGH ON YOU, RISA!
(SOB) AND WE WERE TO BE MARRIED NEXT MONTH!
WE CIRCUS PEOPLE HAVE TO EXPECT THESE TOUGH BREAKS, RISA!
3

WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T RISA, CRYING HER PRETTY EYES OUT FOR HER EX-BOY FRIEND
IT WAS AWFUL ABOUT DARO. I'M SORRY, RISA.
THANKS, STRONGO- SOB
-YEAH- NOW THAT HE'S GONE, WHY DON'T YOU FORGET HIM AND BE NICE TO ME-
YOU-YOU VILE!
PLAYING HARD TO GET EH? I'LL TEACH YOU—
LET ME GO- YOU BEAST!
OW! YOU SHE-DEVIL! YOU'VE SCRATCHED MY EYES!
HAW-HAW- SHE GIVE IT TO YA GOOD HAW-HAW!
WHY YOU MISERABLE MOUSE- GIVE ME THE HORSE LAUGH, WILL YOU!
I WAS ONLY KIDDIN', STRONGO
4

SURE! I'M A GREAT KIDDER MYSELF. WATCH! I'LL SHOW YOU!
WH...WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO, STRONGO?
NO, STRONGO! NO! PLEASE!
HA, HA, HA!
TO THE LIONS
STRONGO! THEM CATS'LL TEAR ME TO PIECES!
HALP?!
SUDDENLY..
YOU DIRTY BULLY! I SAW THE WHOLE THING!
5

NICE GOIN', JOE! I'LL SOCK HIM ON THE FIRST BOUNCE!
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? WHAT'RE YOU UP TO NOW, STRONGO?
HELLO, PHIL! YOU'RE STRONG MAN AND I ARE HAVING A LITTLE DISAGREEMENT ABOUT WHAT IS AND WHAT ISN'T A PRACTICAL JOKE!
JOE HIGGINS, YOU OLD BUCKO, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOU WERE DROPPING IN ON MY SHOW?
WHY DO YOU KEEP A CHARACTER LIKE THAT AROUND, PHIL?
WHAT AM I GONNA DO? HELP IS SHORT ENOUGH AS IT IS - AND THEN ALL THOSE ACCIDENTS I'VE BEEN HAVING--
YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN HAVING OTHER ACCIDENTS LIKE THE ONE WE JUST SAW?
LIKE CLOCKWORK! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK MY SHOW IS JINXED!
A FEW WEEKS AGO, THE WIRE BROKE UNDER THE TRAPEZE ARTIST THEN THE CATS BUSTED LOOSE LAST WEEK IT WAS THE HIGH DIVER! AND NOW THIS! BOY! ONE MORE ACCIDENT, AND NO INSURANCE COMPANY'LL COVER ME! AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
6

I'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE WRECKED MOTOR-CYCLE
SURE- SURE! IT'S AROUND BACK, LET'S GO
HMM-M- WHAT'S THIS LEAKING OUT OF THE TIRE?
SNIFF-SNIFF- HMM-
SAY PHIL, ISN'T IT A VIOLATION TO USE CLEANING FLUID AROUND A CIRCUS?
IT SURE IS! TOO GREAT A FIRE HAZARD I'D CAN ANYBODY I CAUGHT WITH IT! WHY?
OH, JUST WONDERING, THAT'S ALL WELL, SO LONG, PHIL GOTTA RUN NOW!
AW, THAT'S TOO BAD! DON'T BE SUCH A STRANGER, JOE NO LAW AGAINST AN F.B.I. MAN HAVING A CIRCUS OWNER FOR A FRIEND, IS THERE?
OUTSIDE
BUT THERE'S STILL A LAW AGAINST MURDER, DUSTY! START PEELING LAD!
OBOY! THE SHIELD AND THE BOY DETECTIVE ARE GOIN' TO WORK, HUH?
RIGHT! AND UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR TONIGHT'S "ACCIDENT" HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE OTHERS!
7

SAY SHIELD, WHAT'S THE ANGLE ON THE CLEANING FLUID?
THAT STUFF IN THE TIRE WAS A RUBBER DISSOLVENT-CARBON-TETRACHLORIDE! WE'RE GOING TO SEARCH THESE TENTS!
AND WHERE WE FIND THE STUFF - THAT'S WHERE OUR MAN WILL BE! DUSTY- YOU COVER ONE LINE OF TENTS AND I'LL SEARCH THE OTHER - LET'S GO!
NOTHING HERE BUT A BUNCH OF CIRCUS COSTUMES
DUSTY SEEMS TO HAVE HAD SIMILAR LUCK -
NOTHING SO FAR AND THIS IS THE LAST TENT- IT'S STRONGO'S
WHEW - JUST WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR- SO - STRONGO'S OUR MAN!
PROPERTY OF Strongo
CLEANING FLUID
DIRTY LITTLE SNOOPER NOW I'LL FINISH HIM OFF!
8

KIDS AND MIDGETS SEEM TO BE YOUR SPECIALTY, STRONGO!
OOF
DUSTY! DUSTY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GREAT HEAVENS! HIS LIPS ARE BLUE! DID I GET HERE TOO LATE?
THUD
PRETTY STRONG GUY, AIN'T YOU, SHIELD? WE'LL SEE JUST HOW STRONG YOU ARE!
LATER, THE SHIELD AWAKENS TO FIND—
WELL, HAWKSHAW, YA GOT WISE TO ME! BUT IT AIN'T GONNA DO YOU NO GOOD!
SURE I KNOCKED THOSE GUYS OFF I'VE WANTED TO OWN THIS SHOW FOR A LONG TIME AND I FIGURED THIS WAS A GOOD WAY TO GET THE BOSS TO SELL
9

NOW, YOU'RE GONNA BE ANOTHER "ACC.DENT"— UNLESS YOU'RE STRONGER THAN FOUR HORSES!
UGH-MY ARMS-I CAN'T STAND THIS MUCH LONGER!
HOLD IT, SHIELD! I'M COMING!
OUTA MY WAY, BEEF TRUST!
YOU OKAY, SHIELD-BOY, I CAME TO, JUST IN TIME!
I'LL SAY YOU DID! ANOTHER TEN MINUTES AND I'D HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A TIN CUP AND PENCILS!
THERE GOES STRONGO! C'MON! AFTER HIM! DUSTY!

STRONGO WILDLY MAKES A BREAK FOR FREEDOM!
LIONS
HELLO, STRONGO! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU AND SO'S LEO! NOW IT'S MY TURN FOR SOME FUN!
NO, MIDGE! THAT CAT'LL CHEW ME TO PIECES!
AH-GH!
HA, HA! YOU'LL NEVER TRY ANY MORE PRACTICAL JOKES IN THIS WORLD, STRONGO! LEO HASN'T GOT MUCH OF A SENSE OF A SENSE OF HUMOR, HA, HA!
WHAT'S ALL THE GROWLING IN THERE, SHIELD?
HOLY SMOKE! THE LION'S GOT STRONGO! WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM! BETTER NOT LOOK! IT'S NOT A PRETTY SIGHT!
WELL, LOOKS LIKE THE LADY WITH THE SCALES CAUGHT UP WITH HIM-AND IT'S JUST AS WELL-WE WOULD HAVE HAD A TOUGH TIME PINNING THOSE CRIMES ON HIM!

DESIGN FOR DYING

A BLACK HOOD STORY

By H. L. COOPER

"HOW do you like that?" said Kip Burland turning to Barbara Sutton annoyedly. "You finally get me down to one of these long haired ballet dances, and what happens, the star doesn't show up."

"Well, don't look at me like it was my fault, Kip, that he suddenly took sick."

Kip helped Babs on with her wrap, and they proceeded to leave the theater. Suddenly, Babs turned to Kip and said, "Maybe the evening isn't completely wasted, Kip. I'll drop in on Chekhov's dressing room and get a story for my paper on his illness. Good human interest stuff. You know, the wizard of the ballet gives his all for the dear, dear public and breaks down, etc., etc."

"Include me out, Babs. This is my night off. I've forgotten I'm a cop, so why don't you forget that you're a reporter, and let's go to a good movie . . . which we should have done in the first place," Kip said sourly.

"Oh, come on. Don't be such a crab apple. I'll only be a minute," and Babs dragged a protesting Kip Burland backstage.

They both walked into the ballet dancer's dressing room, and right into a crowd, most of whom were gathered around a couch. One of the group detached himself, and walked up to the newcomers. "What are you doing here?" he growled.

"I'm Barbara Sutton, reporter for the Northville Inquirer, and I'd like a statement from Mr. Chekhov . . ." she began brightly.

"If you can get Chekhov to talk, you can have a thousand statements! He's dead!"

"Dead," Barbara gasped. "But the announcer out front told us that he was suffering with a sore foot."

"That was yesterday. Today, he's not suffering anymore. He died from tetanus infection. At least that's what the doctor here, tells me."

"Aren't you Mr. Livingston, Chekhov's manager?" Kip broke in.

"I was his manager. But unless you know how to get ten percent from a corpse, I'm looking for a new ballet dancer."

"How did it happen?" Barbara asked.

"He cut his fot on a nail in his shoe. Except for pouring on some iodine, he neglected it, and poof . . . tetanus poisoning."

Kip started casually strolling about the room. Finally, he walked into the bathroom, and a short while later emerged with a small vial in his hand, which he carefuly concealed from view. He strolled up to Livingston, and said, "Did Chekhov *pour* the iodine on the cut himself?"

"Hmmm . . . no, his personal Russian valet, that guy standing over there in the corner with his arms folded, put it on. But I don't see what you're getting at. After all, you'd expect Kulik to . . ."

But Kip didn't wait to hear what Livingston had to say about Kulik, for he started to walk back to the corpse again as though in idle curiosity. On the way, he brushed past Kulik.

"Ow," the valet yowled.

"Oh, pardon me," Kip sputtered, profusely apologetic. "I jabbed you with the point of my fountain pen, didn't I? Clumsy of me. Here let me dab it with some of this iodine I got out of the medicine chest."

"N . . . never mind," Kulik stammered. "It'll be all right."

"Oh, but I insist. After all, it was my fault; here let me have your hand," with which Kip yanked Kulik's hand toward him.

"Let go, damn you," Kulik snarled. "I don't want any I tell you."

"Because you don't want to die the same way your master did, maybe," Kip said quietly.

A pall of silence fell over the whole room!

"Kip. What are you getting at?" Barbara finally broke the silence.

"That Kulik murdered his master," Kip answered, gazing fixedly at the valet. "He injected those tetanus germs into Chekhov with this bottle of iodine. Didn't you, Kulik?"

Kulik's answer was a hoarse curse. Savagely he rushed at Kip. It was a moment's work for Kip to sidestep, duck, and lash out with two bonecrushing blows! Kulik's eyes glazed. And he went down and out. The whole thing happened so quickly, that all just stood there open-mouthed.

At last one of the doctors recovered himself sufficiently to sputter. "Your accusation is ridiculous! Any medical man could tell you that Tetanus germs couldn't possibly live in iodine."

"Not iodine, perhaps. But they could in Argyrol. Here, look for yourself, doctor."

The doctor took the vial from Kip's hand, and sniffed at its contents. "By Jove," he exclaimed in utter amazement. "It is argyrol. But how on earth did you know?"

"I suspected it as soon as I noticed that there wasn't a trace of iodine on Chekhov's foot, although Gluckstern assured me that Kulik had applied it liberally yesterday. Iodine, as you yourself know, doctor, leaves some discoloration, so, obviously whatever was substituted had to resemble iodine. The only thing I could think of was argyrol."

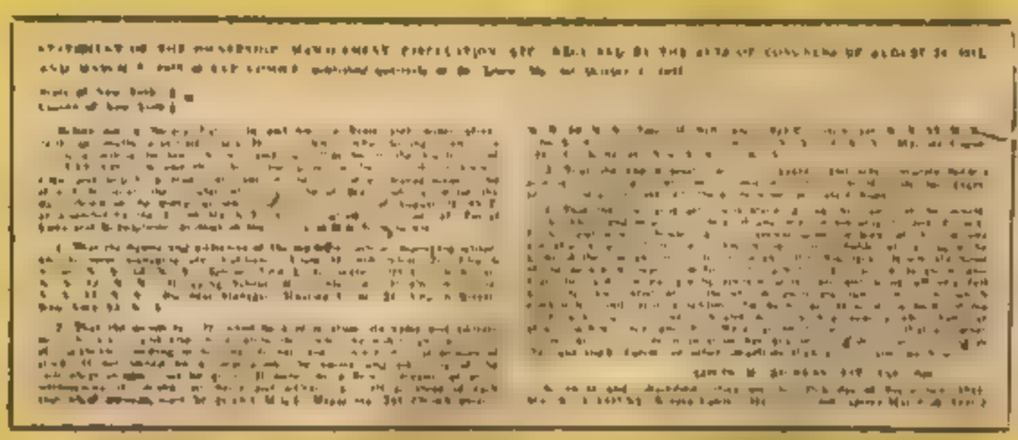
Babs looked at Kip with open-eyed admiration. "Kip, you're uncanny. But why did he do it?"

"That I'll let him tell for himself. He's conscious now. How about it, Kulik? Why did you, a faithful and loyal servant, kill Chekhov?"

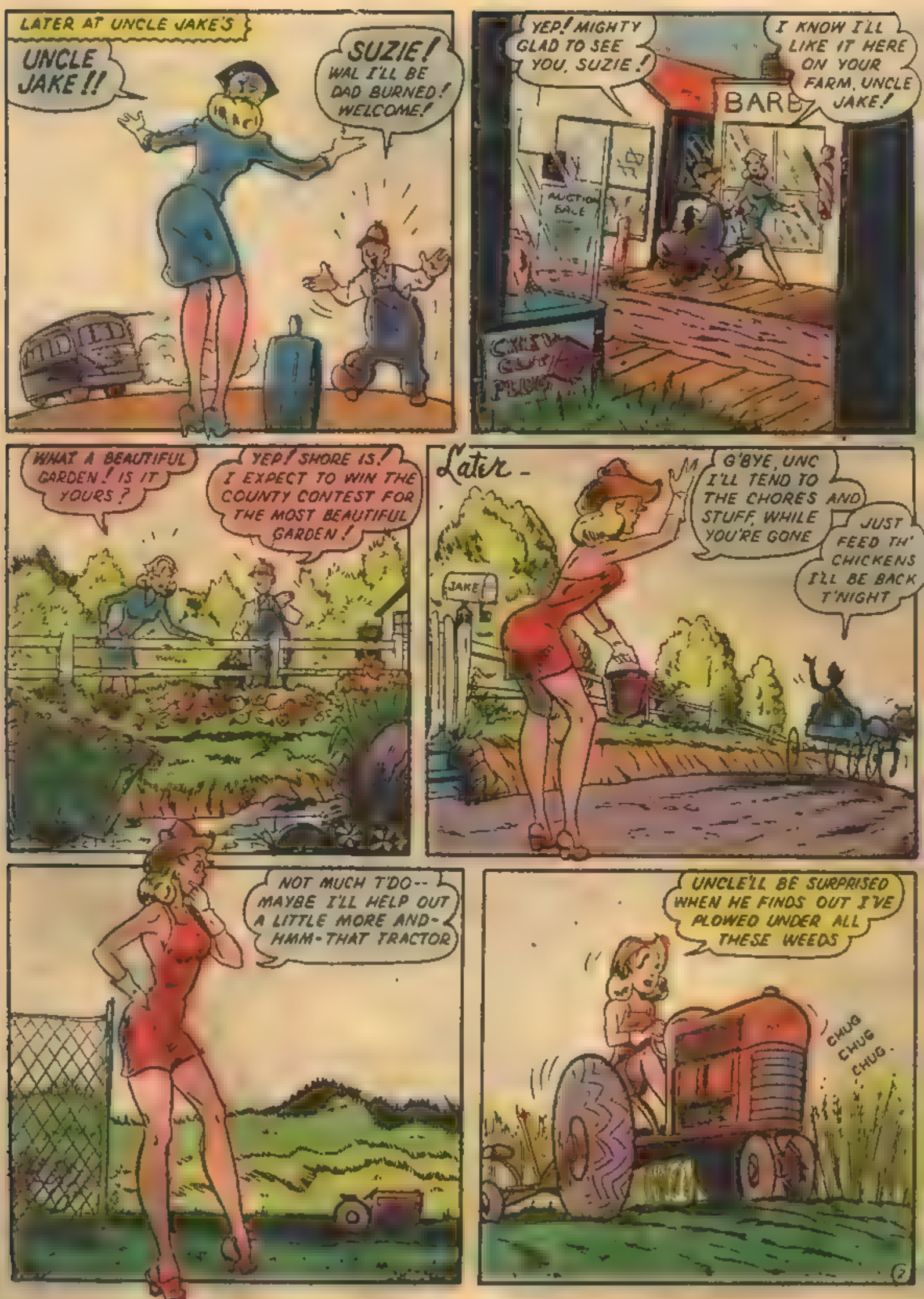
"Faithful and loyal . . . pah!" Kulik spat. "I was not his servant. I was his SLAVE! I, Kulik, should have had the glory and renown in the ballet world that he had. And the scum knew it. I could dance rings around him. But he also knew that I was here in America illegally . . . without a passport. So he blackmailed me, held this knowledge over my head as a club. Forced me to wait on him hand and foot. Life became unbearable. There was no other way."

After Kulik had been given his one way ride to police headquarters Kip rejoined Barbara. "What was that you were saying about forgetting your job on your night off?" she said archly.

"Uh . . . let's go to the movies, Barbara!"



SUZIE
SAMPLE GINGER!
WHAT THIS FARM NEEDS IS A FEMININE TOUCH!!
SPRAY ME WITH PERFUME, WILL SHE?! I'LL TEACH HER NOT TO BUTT IN!
PEOPLE WILL THINK I'M JUST A DUMB CLUCK!
OUR STORY OPENS ON A VERY FAMILIAR NOTE---
YOU'RE FIRED! EVERYTHING WAS JAKE UNTIL I HIRED YOU, SUZIE
?
SNAP
I NEED A VACATION FROM JOB HUNTING ANYWAY TA TE TA
JAKE? THAT'S IT! I'LL SEE UNCLE JAKE!!
SCHOOL
BUS STATION

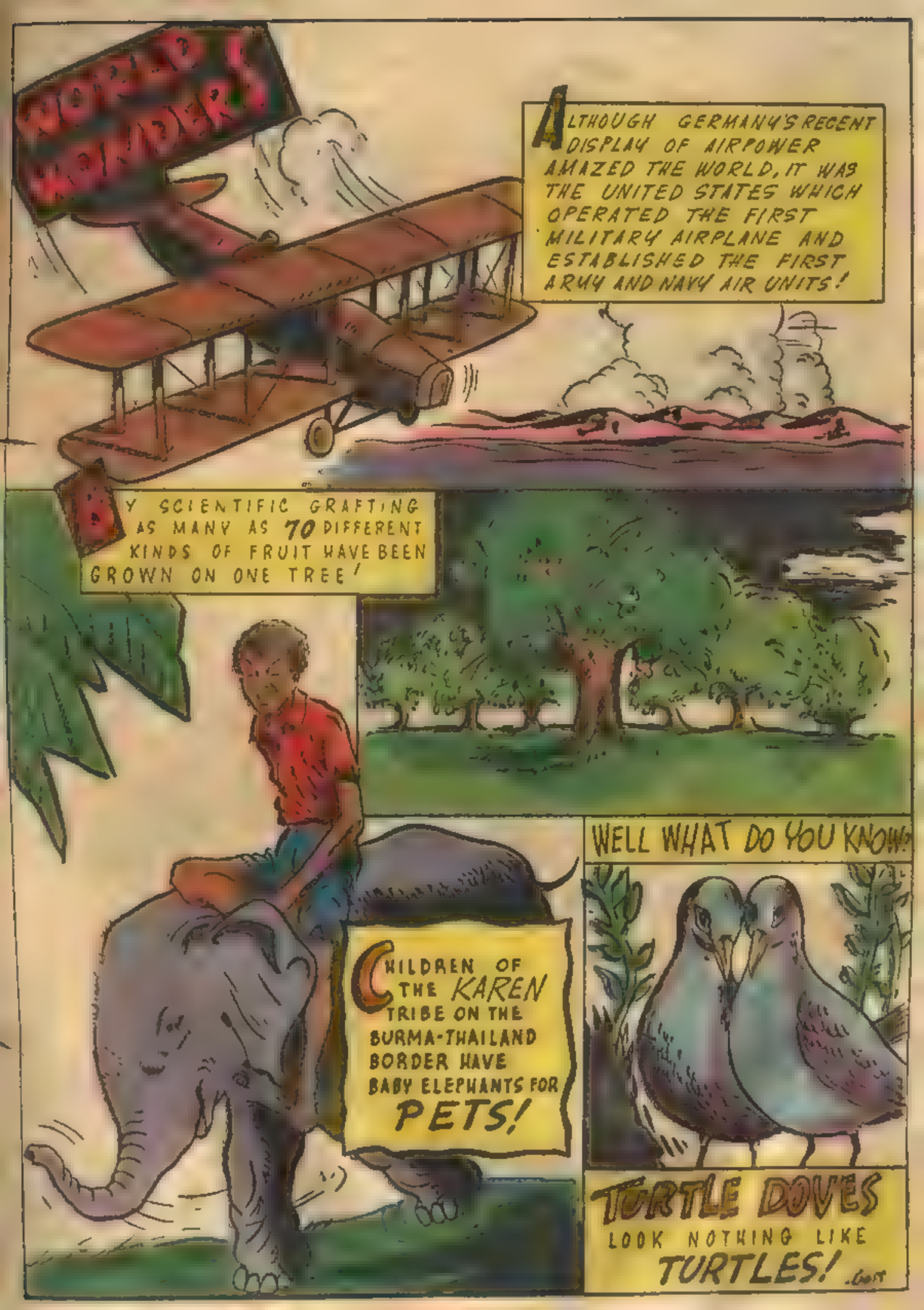

LATER AT UNCLE JAKE'S
UNCLE JAKE!!
SUZIE! WAL I'LL BE DAD BURNED! WELCOME!
YEP! MIGHTY GLAD TO SEE YOU, SUZIE!
I KNOW I'LL LIKE IT HERE ON YOUR FARM, UNCLE JAKE!
BARB
AUCTION SALE
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN! IS IT YOURS?
YEP! SHORE IS! I EXPECT TO WIN THE COUNTY CONTEST FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDEN!
Later -
JAKE
G'BYE, UNC I'LL TEND TO THE CHORES AND STUFF, WHILE YOU'RE GONE
JUST FEED TH' CHICKENS I'LL BE BACK T'NIGHT
NOT MUCH T'DO-- MAYBE I'LL HELP OUT A LITTLE MORE AND- HMM- THAT TRACTOR
UNCLE'LL BE SURPRISED WHEN HE FINDS OUT I'VE PLOWED UNDER ALL THESE WEEDS
CHUG CHUG CHUG
7

WHEW! I NEVER KNEW FARMING WAS SUCH HARD WORK...
WELL I'LL JUST MAKE MYSELF COMFY AND READ ALL ABOUT FARMING
FARM JOURNAL
GOLLY GEE! WHAT A PERFECTLY DUCKY IDEA! I'M GOING TO TRY IT OUT!
FARM JOURNAL
REVOLVING TRACTOR-TIME-SAVING IDEA SUBMITTED BY ABNER DOUBLEDAY
A LITTLE LATER
LET'S SEE--UNCLE JAKE SAID THIS WAS A FIELD OF CLOVER HE WANTED CUT--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A BUNCH OF WEEDS TO ME..
CHUG CHUG CHUG
WHILE THE TRACTOR'S GOING I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT SPEEDING UP THINGS AROUND HERE
A LITTLE MORE WATER PRESSURE OUGHT TO STEP UP THAT CEMENTER

UNCLE JAKE RETURNS
WELL-I WONDER HOW SUZIE IS MAKING OUT ?
HI SUZIE WHAT'S DOIN' NOW ?
WAIT'LL YOU SEE, UNCLE JAKE
I'VE GOT ALL THESE COWS RIGGED UP FOR MILKING
GOOD! I'LL START THE MACHINE
HERE GOES!
ERL
?
!
STAMPEDE!
4

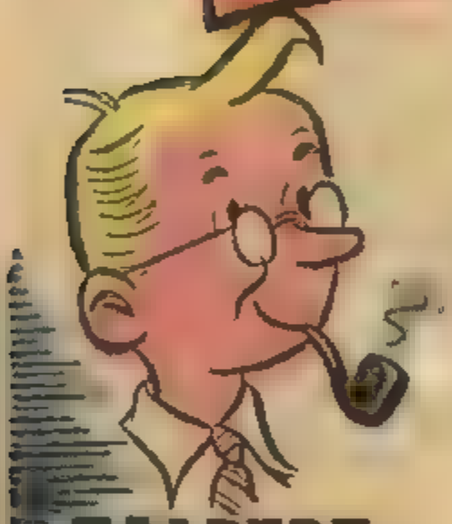
I'VE GOT ONE!! LOOK OUT! YOU'LL HIT THAT PIGPEN!
MOOO
CRASH
BAM
SQUEEE
GLUB
PLOP
WHY, UNCLE JAKE, IS ANYTHING WRONG?
MEANWHILE THE TRACTOR HAS BROKEN LOOSE AND-
YEOW! THE TRACTOR'S LOOSE! HELP!
GOSH, I'D FORGOTTEN [illegible]T THAT!
LOOK OUT! IT'S RUNNING WILD! IT'S RUINING MY FARM!! YIII!

CRASH
BAM
GRR--I COULD GET TWENTY YEARS FOR WHAT I'M THINKING
MY BEAUTIFUL FARM IS A TOTAL WRECK--FLOODED--UPSIDE DOWN--GRR--WHERE'S THAT GIRL?
?
NUH--A NOTE FROM SUZIE--SHE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SHE HAD TO LEAVE
HEY, FARMER! CAN YOU HELP US OUT? WE'RE REPORTERS FROM THE FARM JOURNAL
?
A GAL NAMED SUZIE CALLED US ABOUT A PRIZE FARM SO WE CAME TO TAKE PICTURES! KNOW WHERE IT IS?
?!
GET OUT! THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT SUZIE, I COULD MURDER ANYBODY WHO EVEN KNOWS HER!
TSK--TSK VERY NERVOUS TYPE!
UNCLE JAKE DIDN'T LOOK AS THOUGH HE APPRECIATED WHAT I DID... DARN THIS GAS RATIONING!!
DANGER
CURVE
6

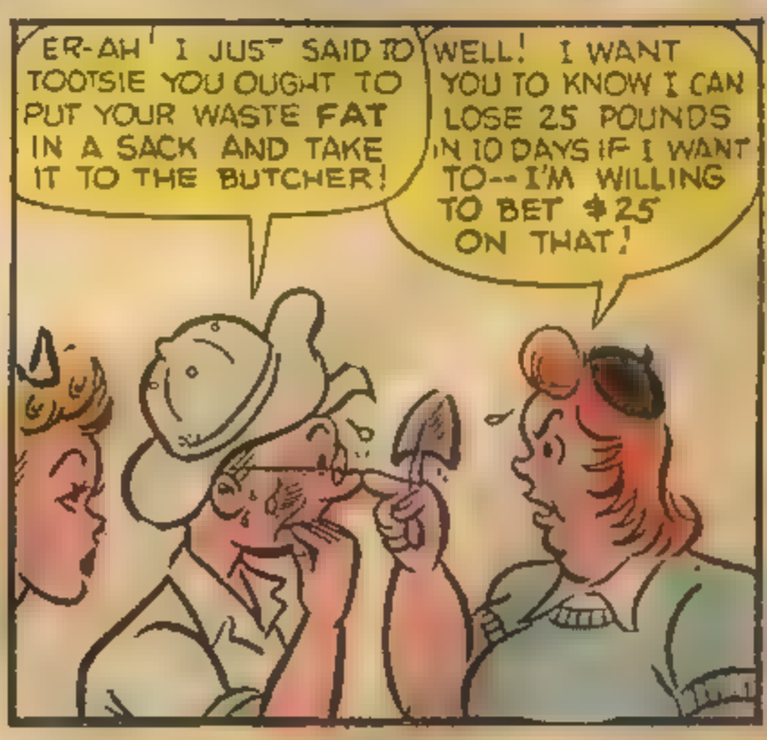

WORLD WONDERS
ALTHOUGH GERMANY'S RECENT DISPLAY OF AIRPOWER AMAZED THE WORLD, IT WAS THE UNITED STATES WHICH OPERATED THE FIRST MILITARY AIRPLANE AND ESTABLISHED THE FIRST ARMY AND NAVY AIR UNITS!
Y SCIENTIFIC GRAFTING AS MANY AS 70 DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRUIT HAVE BEEN GROWN ON ONE TREE!
CHILDREN OF THE KAREN TRIBE ON THE BURMA-THAILAND BORDER HAVE BABY ELEPHANTS FOR PETS!
WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
TURTLE DOVES LOOK NOTHING LIKE TURTLES!

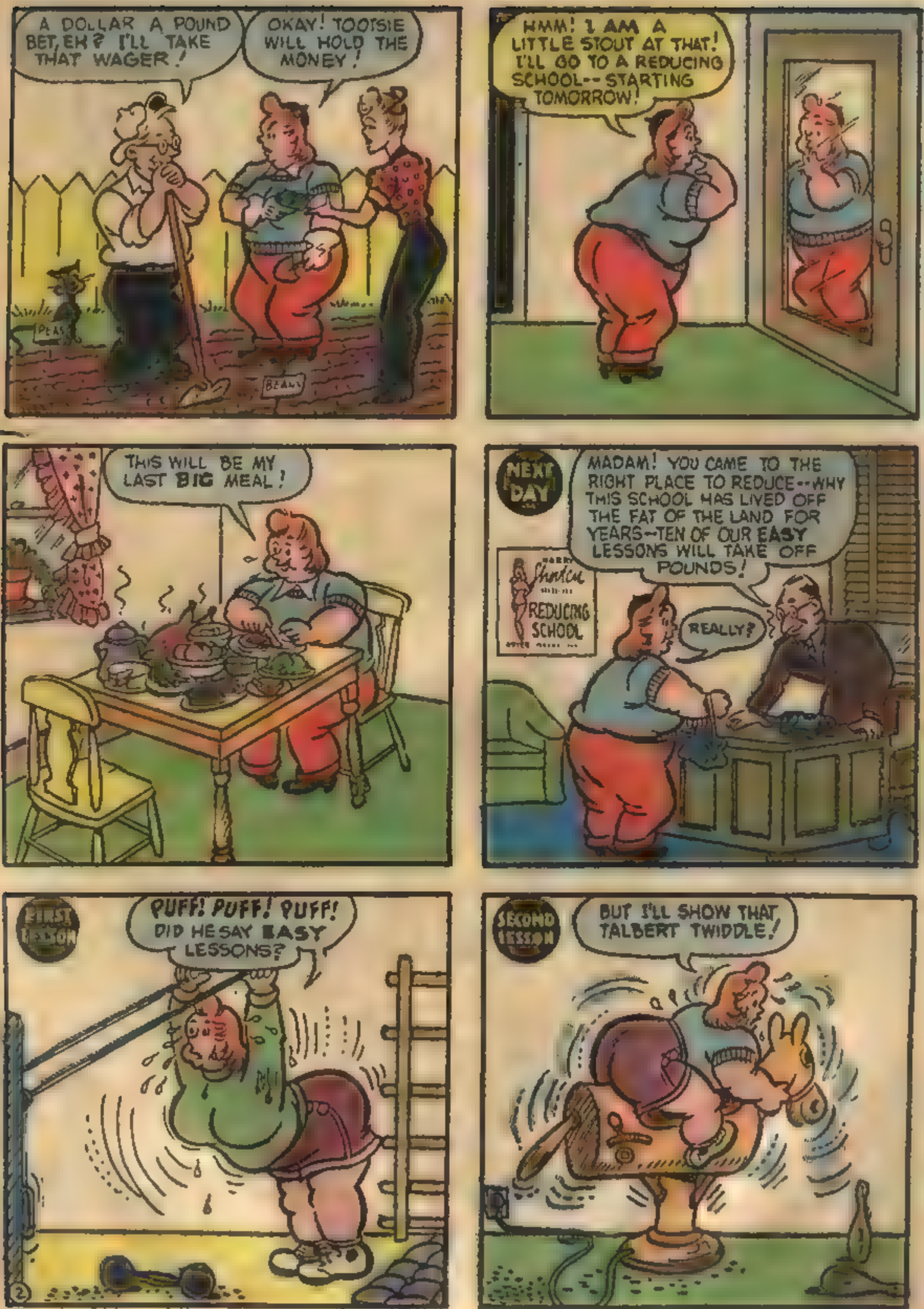
The Twiddles

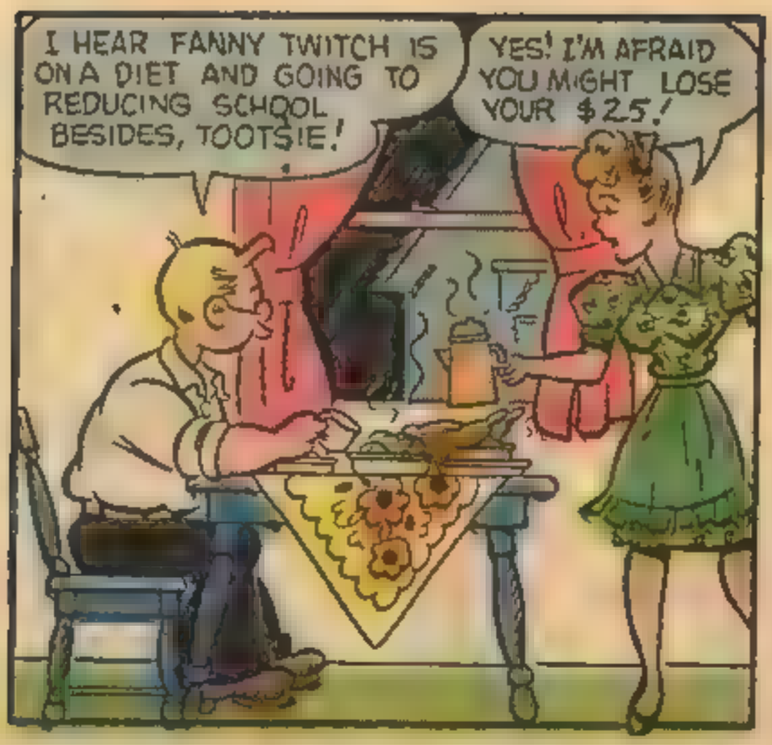
by Bill Woggon

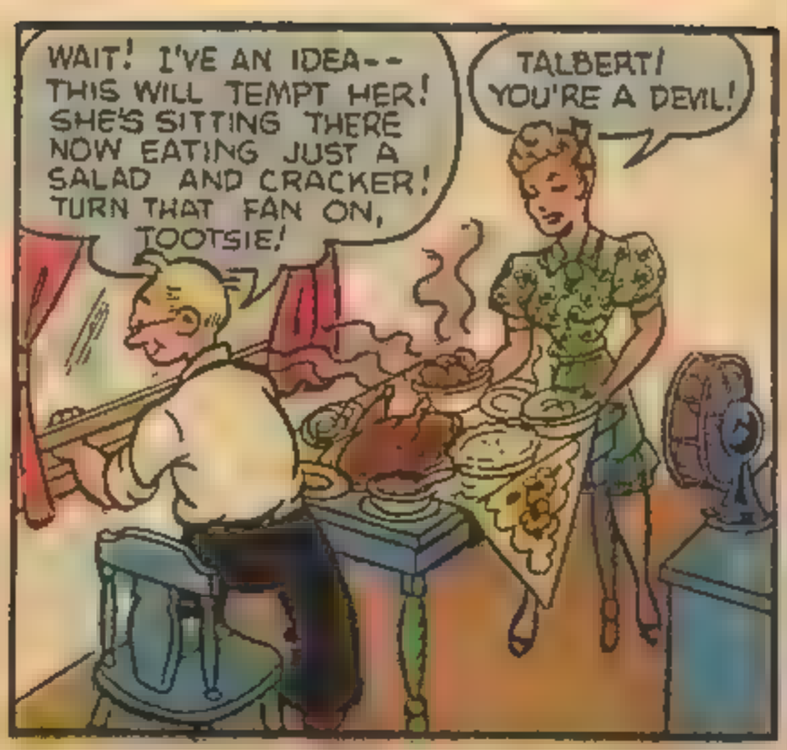


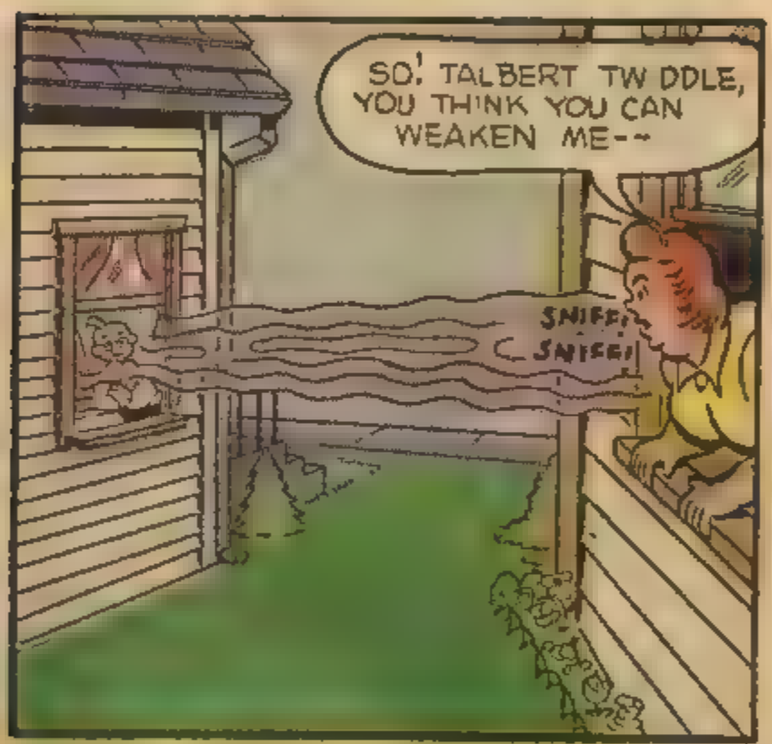
MR. TWIDDLE! WHAT WAS THAT INSULTING REMARK YOU JUST MADE ABOJT ME HAVING A LOT OF WASTE FAT IN THESE SLACKS!
OH MY GOODNESS! FANNY TWITCH HEARD ME!
PEAS
BEAN


ER-AH I JUST SAID TO TOOTSIE YOU OUGHT TO PUT YOUR WASTE FAT IN A SACK AND TAKE IT TO THE BUTCHER!
WELL! I WANT YOU TO KNOW I CAN LOSE 25 POUNDS IN 10 DAYS IF I WANT TO--I'M WILLING TO BET $25 ON THAT!

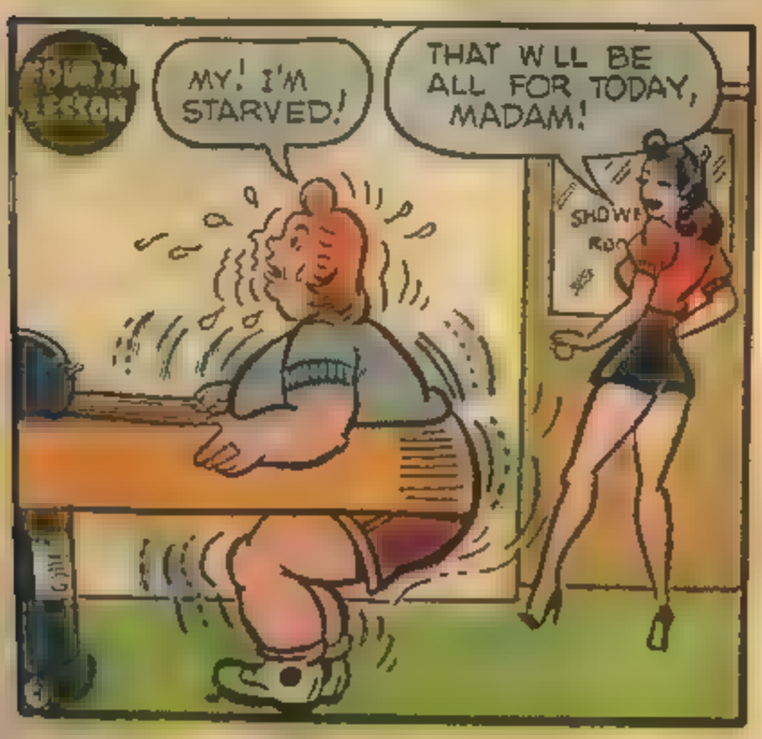

A DOLLAR A POUND BET, EH? I'LL TAKE THAT WAGER!
OKAY! TOOTSIE WILL HOLD THE MONEY!
PEAS
BEANS
HMM! I AM A LITTLE STOUT AT THAT! I'LL GO TO A REDUCING SCHOOL--STARTING TOMORROW!
THIS WILL BE MY LAST BIG MEAL!
NEXT DAY
MADAM! YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE TO REDUCE--WHY THIS SCHOOL HAS LIVED OFF THE FAT OF THE LAND FOR YEARS--TEN OF OUR EASY LESSONS WILL TAKE OFF POUNDS!
REDUCING SCHOOL
REALLY?
FIRST LESSON
PUFF! PUFF! PUFF! DID HE SAY EASY LESSONS?
SECOND LESSON
BUT I'LL SHOW THAT TALBERT TWIDDLE!

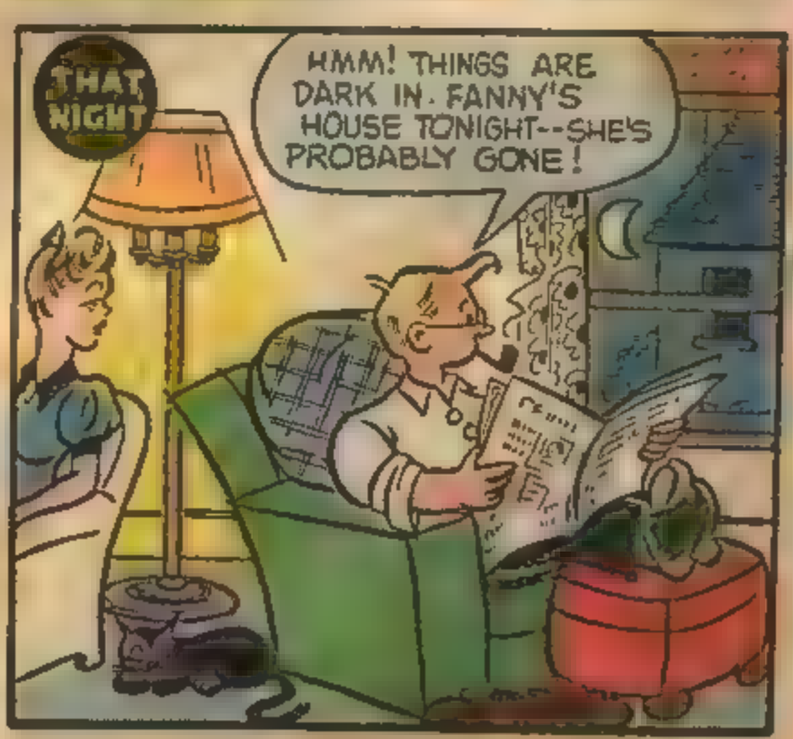

I HEAR FANNY TWITCH IS ON A DIET AND GOING TO REDUCING SCHOOL BESIDES, TOOTSIE!
YES! I'M AFRAID YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR $25!

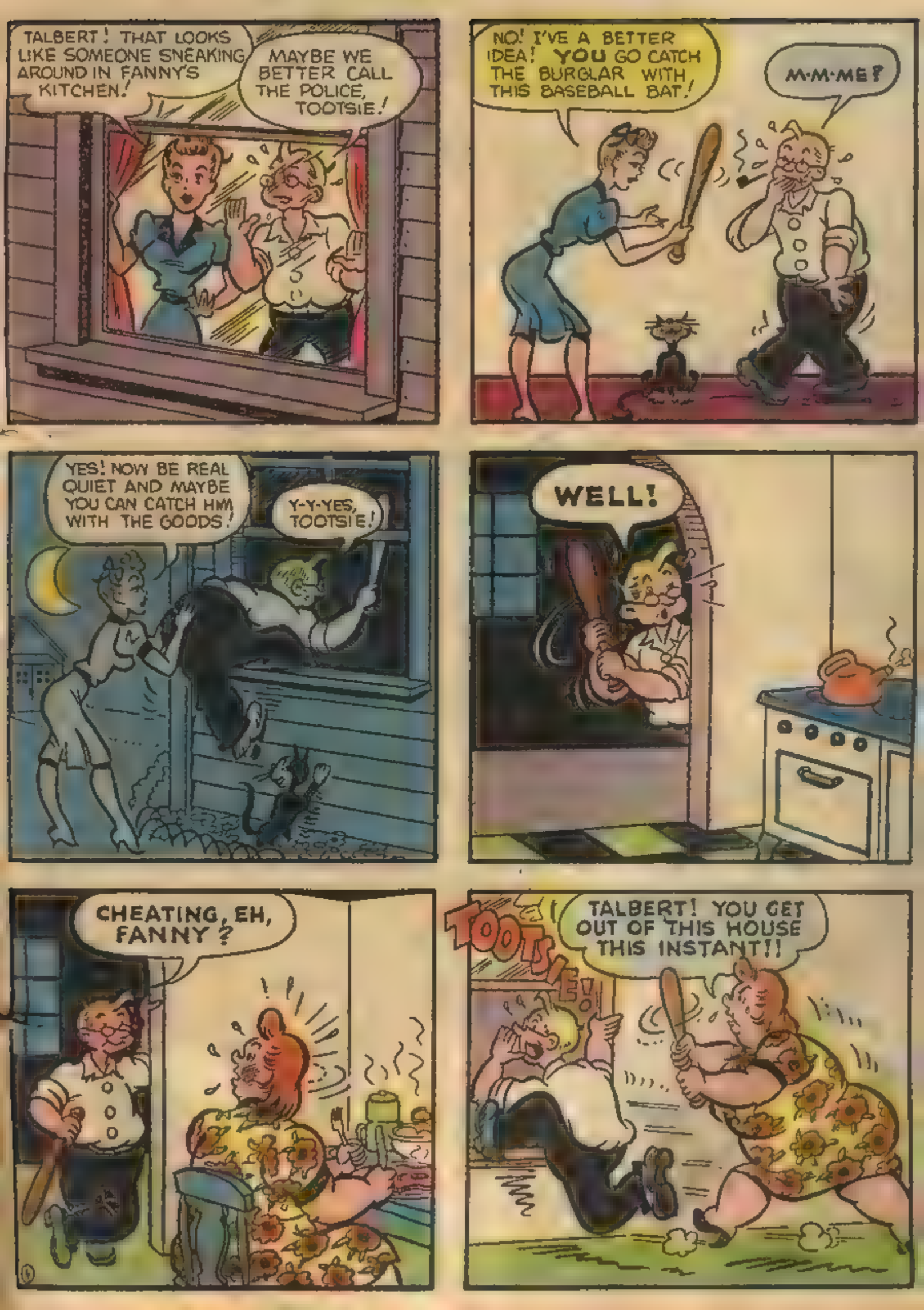

WAIT! I'VE AN IDEA-- THIS WILL TEMPT HER! SHE'S SITTING THERE NOW EATING JUST A SALAD AND CRACKER! TURN THAT FAN ON, TOOTSIE!
TALBERT! YOU'RE A DEVIL!

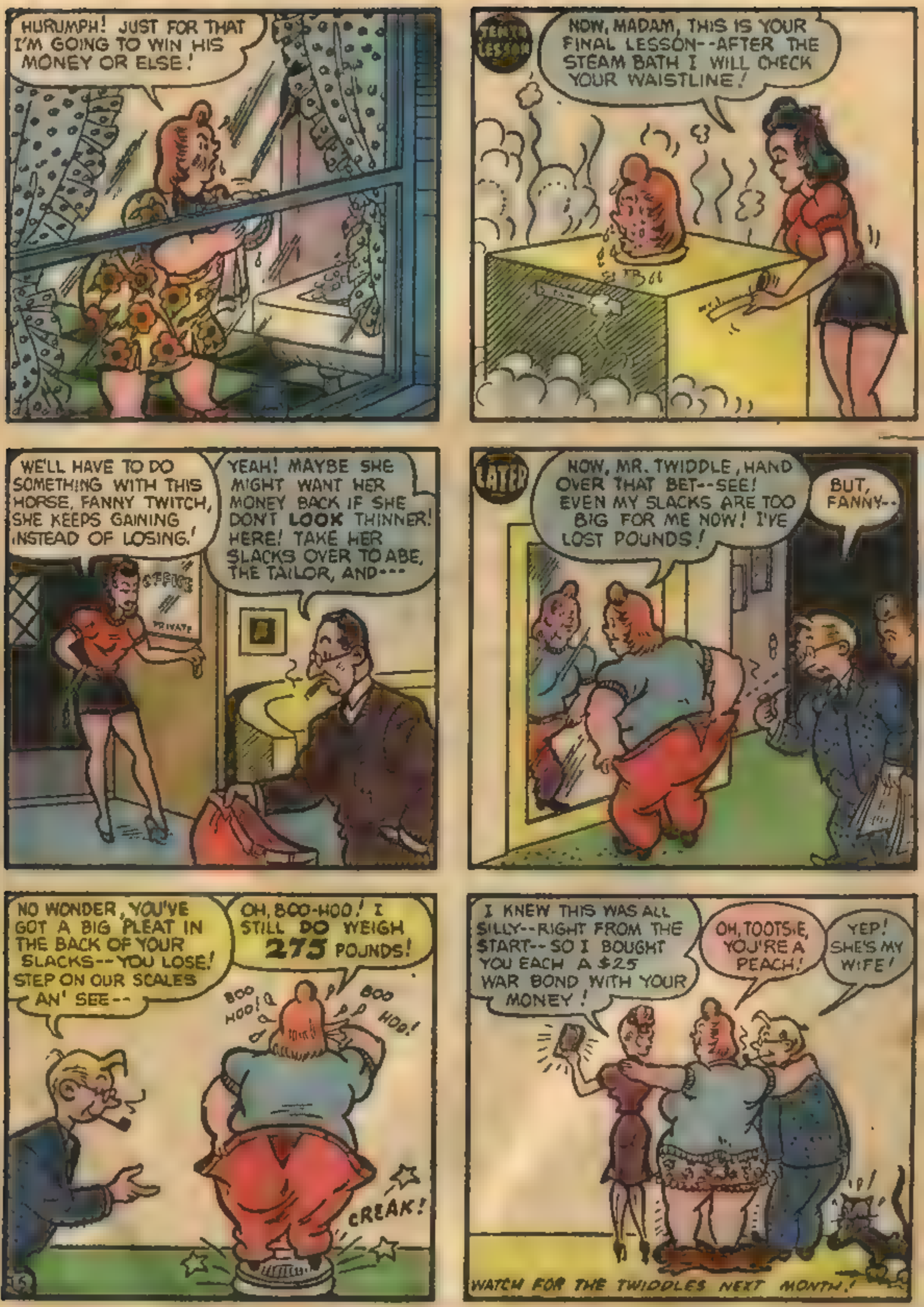

SO! TALBERT TW DDLE, YOU THINK YOU CAN WEAKEN ME--
SNIFF! SNIFF!

HUMPH!
SLAM!


FOURTH LESSON
MY! I'M STARVED!
THAT W LL BE ALL FOR TODAY, MADAM!
SHOWER ROOM


THAT NIGHT
HMM! THINGS ARE DARK IN FANNY'S HOUSE TONIGHT--SHE'S PROBABLY GONE!


TALBERT! THAT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE SNEAKING AROUND IN FANNY'S KITCHEN!
MAYBE WE BETTER CALL THE POLICE, TOOTSIE!
NO! I'VE A BETTER IDEA! YOU GO CATCH THE BURGLAR WITH THIS BASEBALL BAT!
M-M-ME?
YES! NOW BE REAL QUIET AND MAYBE YOU CAN CATCH HIM WITH THE GOODS!
Y-Y-YES, TOOTSIE!
WELL!
CHEATING, EH, FANNY?
TOOTSIE!
TALBERT! YOU GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE THIS INSTANT!!


HURUMPH! JUST FOR THAT I'M GOING TO WIN HIS MONEY OR ELSE!
TENTH LESSON
NOW, MADAM, THIS IS YOUR FINAL LESSON--AFTER THE STEAM BATH I WILL CHECK YOUR WAISTLINE!
WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING WITH THIS HORSE, FANNY TWITCH, SHE KEEPS GAINING INSTEAD OF LOSING!
YEAH! MAYBE SHE MIGHT WANT HER MONEY BACK IF SHE DON'T LOOK THINNER! HERE! TAKE HER SLACKS OVER TO ABE, THE TAILOR, AND---
OFFICE
PRIVATE
LATER
NOW, MR. TWIDDLE, HAND OVER THAT BET--SEE! EVEN MY SLACKS ARE TOO BIG FOR ME NOW! I'VE LOST POUNDS!
BUT, FANNY--
NO WONDER, YOU'VE GOT A BIG PLEAT IN THE BACK OF YOUR SLACKS--YOU LOSE! STEP ON OUR SCALES AN' SEE--
OH, BOO-HOO! I STILL DO WEIGH 275 POUNDS!
BOO HOO!
BOO HOO!
CREAK!
I KNEW THIS WAS ALL SILLY--RIGHT FROM THE START--SO I BOUGHT YOU EACH A $25 WAR BOND WITH YOUR MONEY!
OH, TOOTSIE, YOU'RE A PEACH!
YEP! SHE'S MY WIFE!
WATCH FOR THE TWIDDLES NEXT MONTH!

JEST JOKES
BUY BONDS TO BOMB THE BUMS! BUY STAMPS TO STAMP THE TRAMPS!
WHERE DO YOU WANT THIS ROUND TRIP TICKET TO?
R.R. TICKETS
RIGHT BACK HERE, STUPID!
YOUNG MAN, WHY DO YOU REACH FOR THINGS? YOU HAVE A TONGUE!
YUP! BUT MY ARM IS LONGER!
MMMM... BLONDES!
SAY! WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE'VE GOTTEN FROM CHEMISTRY!
HEY! WHO YA PUSHIN'?
I DUNNO! WHAT'S YER NAME?
MILLADRAMMER
I KNOW A GUY WHO SHAVES AT LEAST 30 TIMES A DAY!!
YEAH? SOME BEARD!
NAW! SOME BARBER!
HOW MUCH DOES A SUBWAY WEIGH?
TWO TONS! UP TON AND DON TON! YUP YUM YUM!
LADY.. YOU CAN GET OFF AT EITHER END! THEY BOTH STOP!
BORROWED

POKEY OAKEY

by Don Dean

IN LAST ISSUE A CREATURE KNOWN AS "MOUNTAIN MAN" INVADED CATFISH CREEK IN SEARCH OF A SPOUSE, BUT A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH POKEY OAKEY HAS SENT HIM HOWLING BACK TO HIS LAIR

AS OUR STORY OPENS, WE FIND HIM RELATING HIS SAD EXPERIENCE TO HIS BROTHER, L'IL MOUNTAIN

...THEN THIS MYAR POKEY FELLAH AN' MAHSELF GOES INTO A CAVE TO FIGHT ET OUT AND **DANGED** EF THET STRING BEAN DINT **CLEAN** ME UP!

SOB

BAH! THET WAS NO CAVE, THET WAS A **RAILROAD TUNNEL** AN' ET WERE A **TRAIN** THET HIT YO', NOT POKEY!

AS TWIN BROTHAHS - YO WAS GIVEN ALL TH' STRENGTH BUT I WAS GIVEN ALL TH' BRAINS, RIGHT?
YO IS RIGHT, L'IL MOUNTAIN
ALL RIGHT NOW, AH WILL SHOW YO NOW BRAINS TRIUMPHS OVAH BRAWN AH'M GOIN' DOWN TO TH' VILLAGE AN' WOE BE TO POKEY OAKEY
DOES YO REALLY THINK YO KIN BEAT HIM UP?
SHO NUFF AS AH IS SCIENTIFIC!! ALSO AH WILL WOO HIS GAL PLUMB AWAY FROM HIM... SCIENTIFICS AGIN
G'BYE!
?
HAAA! THAR IS TH' LONG-LAIGED LOUT NOW - WHUT LUCK! HEH-HEH-HEH
SOOO - YO IS TH' SKONK THET CLEANED UP MAH BIG BROTHAH HUM??
EF YO IS REFERRIN' TO TH' BEST MAN WINNIN'... YES!
THEN GIT ON YO FEET - AH AIMS TO AVENGE THET OUTRAGE!!
2

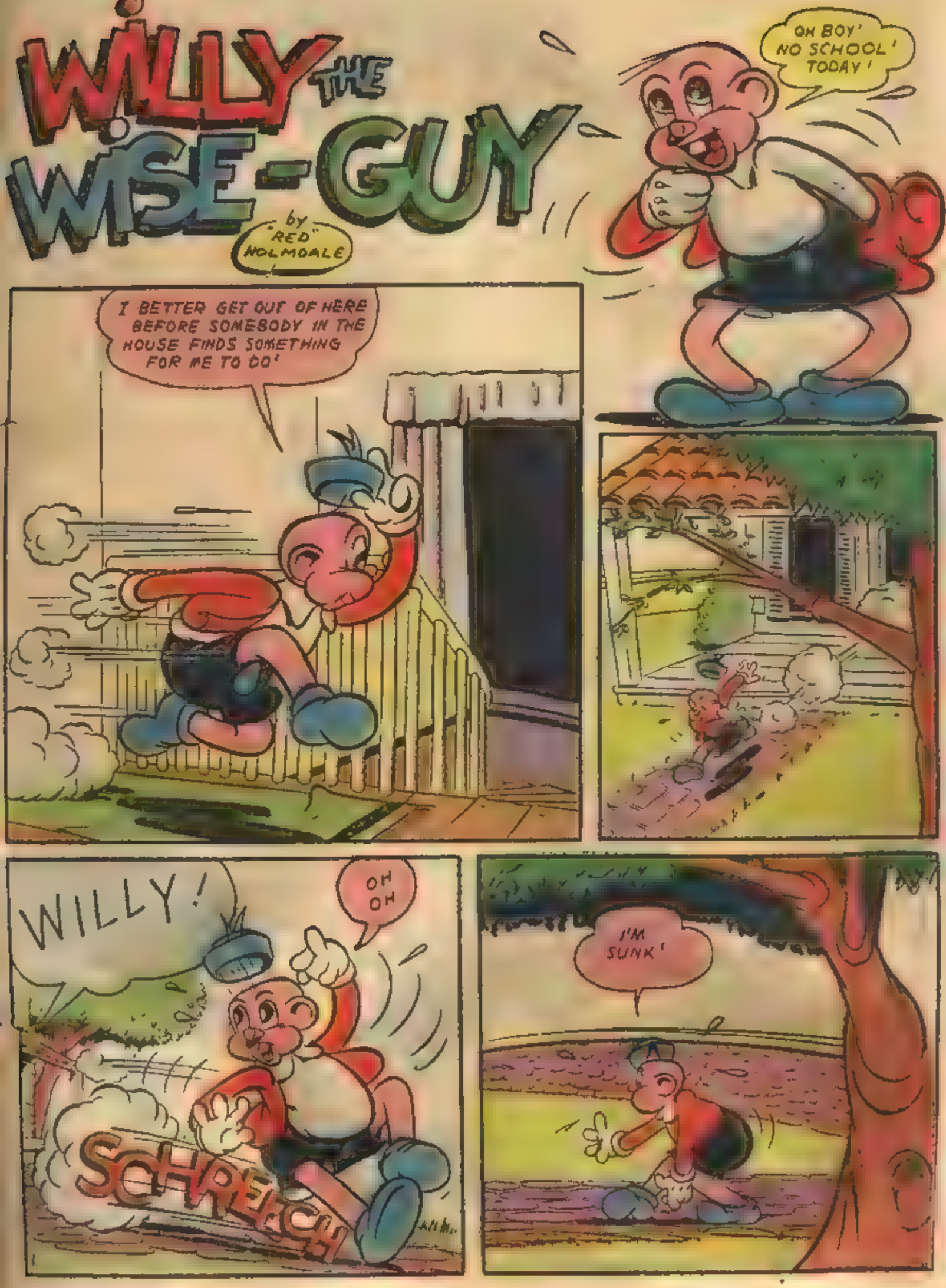
HO-HO-HO. FO' A L'IL FELLAH YO SHO MAKES BIG TALK!
OH WELL- AH WARNED HIM!
BONG
PLOP!
THET IS WHUT IS KNOWN AS USIN' YO HAID - CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
WELL-HAS YO HAD ENUFF OR DOES AH HAVE TO GIVE YO MAH SPECIAL PUNCH?
ENUFF AH RECKONS--OH THIS IS ALL SO CONFUSIN'.
NOW AH AIMS TO ELOPE WIFF YO GAL CLARA BELLE-DOES YO HEAR ME?
HO-HO WHO IS CRAZY YO OR ME? CLARA BELLE LOVES ONLY ME!
BAH! SHE IS THROUGH WIFF YO! AN' TO PROVE ET AH'LL WALK RIGHT INTO HER HOUSE AN' SHE WILL FALL ON MAH NECK!
CLARA BELLE JONES

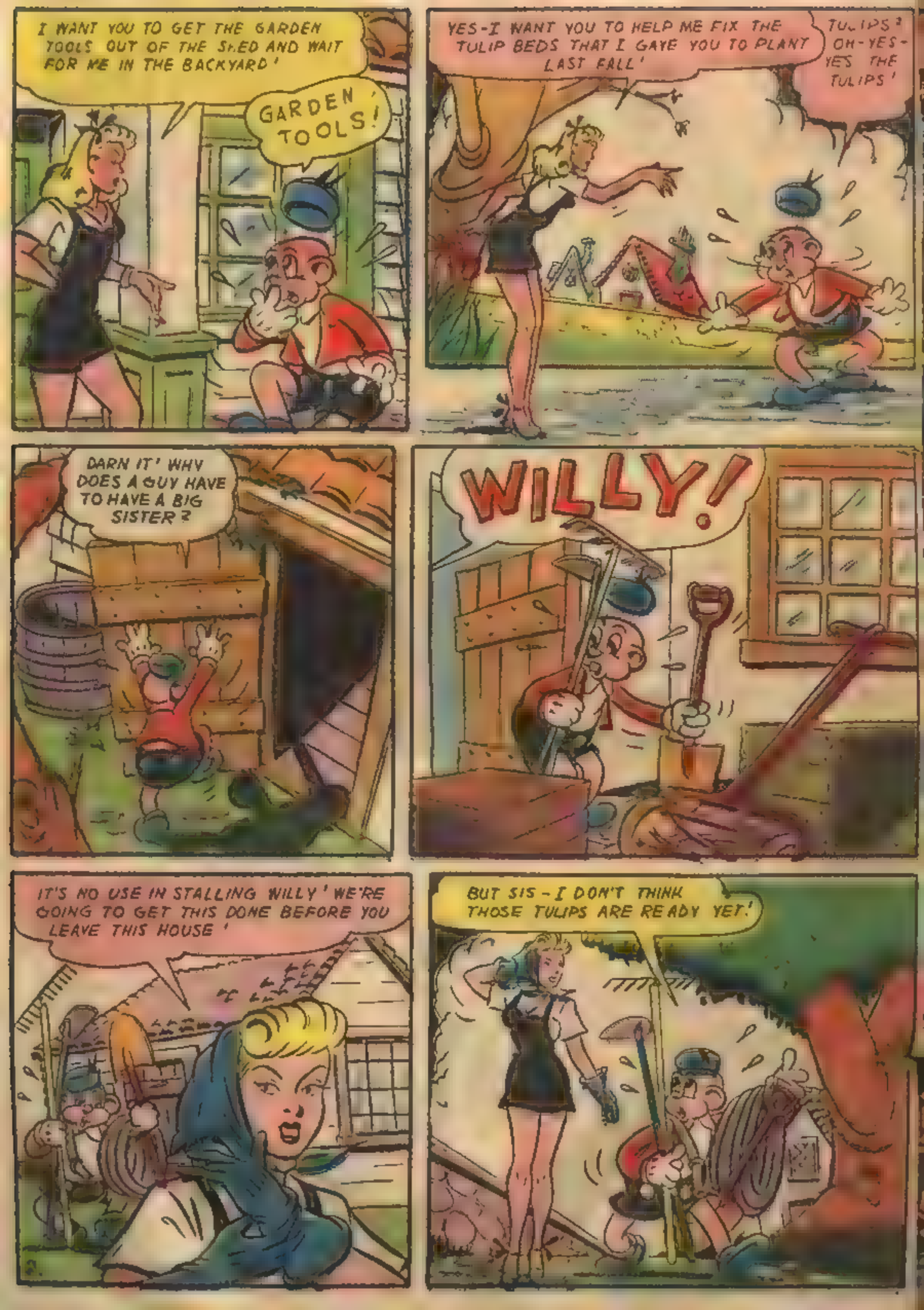
MAH CLARA BELLE UNFAITHFUL? YO IS PLUMB CRAZY L'IL MOUNTAIN!
SEEIN' IS BELIEVIN'- WATCH FOOL!
GOOD EVENIN' CLARA BELLE-OH AH IS SOOO MISERABLE-- --AH IS IN SUCH PAIN, SOB!
WHY, WHUT'S AILIN' YO, L'IL MOUNTAIN?
ET'S MAH EYE! AH GOT A CINDER OR SOMETHIN' IN ET, SOB-SOB
OH YO POOR THING HYAR LET ME HELP YO.
GULP! EEEOW
SHE'S HUGGIN' AN' KISSIN' HIM!
WAL-- GULP-- AH GUESS AH'LL MOSEY ALONG-- AH SHO HAS MADE A FOOL OF MAHSELF-- CHOKE
HMMM-AH CAN'T FIND A THING IN YO EYE!
HEH-HEH-HEH ET'S ALL OUT. NOW HOW ABOUT A STROLL IN THE MOONLITE, CUTIE?

NEVAH! YO REPULSIVE SCHEMIN' L'IL SKONK!
GRRRR- FLATTERY WILL GET YO NO WHAR- C'MON AN SEZ!
HALP HALLUP
YO IS COMIN' WIFF ME!
SO! THET'S ET HUH?
L'IL MAN, YO HAS HAD A BUSY DAY AN' ET IS WAY PAST YO BEDTIME-
WAAAA- LEMME GOOO.
SO AH RECKONS AH MIGHT AS WELL TUCK YO IN WHAR YO WILL BE SAFE- GOO-NITE
YO KNOW, CLARA BELLE, THET GUY ALMOS' HAD ME BELIEVIN' YO WAS IN LOVE WIFF
SILLY! WHY WOULD AH LOVE A LAZY MORON LIKE HIM WHEN AH HAS YO?
CONTINUED

WILLY THE WISE-GUY

by "RED" HOLMDALE


OH BOY! NO SCHOOL TODAY!
I BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SOMEBODY IN THE HOUSE FINDS SOMETHING FOR ME TO DO!
WILLY!
OH OH
SCHREECH
I'M SUNK!


I WANT YOU TO GET THE GARDEN TOOLS OUT OF THE SHED AND WAIT FOR ME IN THE BACKYARD!
GARDEN TOOLS!
YES-I WANT YOU TO HELP ME FIX THE TULIP BEDS THAT I GAVE YOU TO PLANT LAST FALL!
TULIPS? OH-YES-YES THE TULIPS!
DARN IT! WHY DOES A GUY HAVE TO HAVE A BIG SISTER?
WILLY!
IT'S NO USE IN STALLING WILLY! WE'RE GOING TO GET THIS DONE BEFORE YOU LEAVE THIS HOUSE!
BUT SIS - I DON'T THINK THOSE TULIPS ARE READY YET!

AND EVEN IF THEY ARE, THEY'RE PROBABLY PRETTY PUNY!
SO WHAT?
WHY NOT GIVE THEM MORE TIME TO GROW, SIS?
SEE THEY NEED MORE TIME!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT? THEY'VE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO GROW!
IT'S MOST LIKELY THE BULBS- NOT VERY GOOD ONE'S I'D SAY!
FOR GOODNESS SAKE, WILLY- WHERE'D YOU GET ALL THIS GARDENING INFORMATION? .. HOW DID YOU KNOW THOSE BULBS WEREN'T GOING TO GROW?
GULP!
'CAUSE I FORGOT TO PLANT 'EM!

SPECIAL TELESCOPE OFFER!

Here is the most remarkable offer that we have ever made. Now you can see most everything you want to see! Now you can bring distant objects so clearly close to your eye that they will seem almost near enough to touch. Why feel frustrated and baffled by something far away that you want to see in full detail. Why be limited in your vision when you can multiply it 13 to 15 times with the amazing 3 super-powered lenses in this GIANT telescope. Quickly overcome the handicap of distance . . . the magnification does it like magic. This new telescopic invention is a miracle of mass production economy and engineering ingenuity. Made of available war-time materials, it is the equal in performance of telescopes that sell for as much as $15.00. Think of the wonderful fun you can have by extending your vision 30 miles in full, clear detail. Read on for full explanation of this really remarkable invention.

THIS GIANT, 30-MILE-RANGE, 4-FOOT SUPER-TELESCOPE with SUPER-POWER

brings distant objects close to your eyes!

NOW—SEE GREAT OR SHORT DISTANCES—with CLOSE-UP DETAIL!

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